Claim Amendments

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/705,130

1. (currently amended) A computer implemented method of securing an agent community, comprising the steps of:

deploying a set of interdependent security agents within an agent community, the set of interdependent security agents including a configuration agent, a distribution agent, a secure copy agent, and a patrol agent; and

managing the agent community security using the security agents;

wherein said step of managing the agent community comprises:

deploying said configuration agent to create a security token for each agent within said agent community and to maintain a configuration list identifying agents within the agent community;

deploying said distribution agent to inform said configuration agent of agents migrating to or from said agent community;

deploying said secure copy agent to require a correct security token to be delivered from the configuration agent to permit the addition of a new agent to said agent community; and

deploying a patrol agent to identifying unauthorized agents which are agents that are not identified on said configuration list and to advise a user upon identification of an unauthorized agent.

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the patrol agent has modes of operation including at least one of a passive, advisory, strict, and investigatory mode.

4. (original) The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein a patrol agent in investigatory mode isolates an unauthorized agent.

5. (original) The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein a patrol agent in investigatory mode doubles an unauthorized agent.

6. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

migrating at least one security agent to another agent community.

7. (canceled)

8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) A computer system for securing an agent community comprising:

a processor for receiving and transmitting data; and

a memory coupled to the processor, the memory having stored therein agent information and sequences of instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to deploy a set of interdependent security agents within an agent community, and manage the agent community security using the security agents, the set of interdependent security agents including: ~~including a configuration agent, a distribution agent, a secure copy agent, and a patrol agent~~

a configuration agent for creating a security token for each agent within said agent community and maintaining a configuration list identifying agents within the agent community;

a distribution agent for informing said configuration agent of agents migrating to or from said agent community;

a secure copy agent requiring a correct security token to be delivered from the configuration agent to permit the addition of a new agent to said agent community; and

a patrol agent for identifying agents which are not identified on said configuration list and advising a user upon identification of an agent which is not identified on said configuration list.

10. (canceled)

11. (previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 9, wherein the patrol agent has modes of operation including at least one of a passive, advisory, strict, and investigatory mode.

12. (original) The system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the patrol agent in investigatory mode isolates an unauthorized agent.

13. (original) The system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the patrol agent in investigatory mode doubles an unauthorized agent.

14. (previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 9, further including sequences of instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to migrate at least one security agent to another processor.